

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIALS DISCUSS
KOREA QUESTION IN THE UN

1. ON JANUARY 13, TWO OFFICIALS OF THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PACIFIC AND ASIAN AFFAIRS ROGERS AND DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PACIFIC AFFAIRS BURNEY, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB TO DISCUSS THE KOREA QUESTION IN THE UN. THEIR PRINCIPAL INTEREST WAS IN SECURING OUR AGREEMENT TO INITIATING CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE CORE GROUP IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER A FIRST ROUND OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK IN MID-FEBRUARY WITH MEMBERS OF THE CORE GROUP. THE CANADIANS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO LEAVE OPEN AT THE MOMENT THE EXACT
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COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP. BUT THEY WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER

ADDING THE FRENCH. HABIB INDICATED WE WOULD BE BACK TO THE CANADIANS ON QUESTION OF GROUP COMPOSITION AFTER GETTING KOREAN VIEWS.

3. HABIB EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT U.S. HAVE AN INFORMAL ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE KOREANS BEFORE THE

CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE KOREANS WERE ABLE TO REGISTER THEIR OWN VIEWS BEFORE CORE GROUP PROCESS GOT UNDER WAY. SAID WE EXPECTED TO HAVE SUCH CONSULTATIONS WITH ROK OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE MID-FEBRUARY.

4. CANADIANS WERE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR VOTING STRENGTH OF LAST YEAR IN THE 31ST UNGA UNLESS THERE WAS SOME CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. THEY QUESTIONED HABIB CLOSELY ABOUT POSSIBLE COSMETIC CHANGES IN THE UN COMMAND STRUCTURE, WHILE STRESSING CANADIANS HAVE NO FIXED POSITIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD APPROACH UPCOMING UNGA. HABIB MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD BE UNDERTAKING REVIEW OF ALL OPTIONS INCLUDING THE UN COMMAND QUESTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CRITICAL PROBLEM FOR US IN ANY OF THESE PROPOSALS WAS THE EFFECT UPON THE ARMISTICE, THAT WE MUST BALANCE OUR ESTIMATE OF THE IMPACT IN KOREAN TERMS OF ACTUAL TERMINATION AGAINST ANY GAINS WHICH MIGHT BE REALIZED IN NEW YORK.

5. THE CANADIANS WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT FRIENDS OF SOUTH KOREA MIGHT BEGIN TO MOVE TOWARD EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. THEY WERE CONCERNED IN PARTICULAR ABOUT JAPANESE INTENTIONS. HABIB SAID WE WERE CONFIDENT THE JAPANESE WOULD NOT ACT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH US AND AGREED WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE SUPPORTERS OF SOUTH KOREA FROM RECOGNIZING THE NORTH IN ABSENCE OF RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF THE ROK BY SUPPORTERS OF NORTH KOREA.

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